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News Release

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Former Minneapolis police officer pleads guilty to armed bank robbery

MINNEAPOLIS – B. Todd Jones, United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota announced that earlier today in federal court a former Minneapolis police officer pleaded guilty to robbing an Apple Valley Wells Fargo bank on January 6, 2010. Appearing before United States District Court Judge Patrick Schiltz in St. Paul, Timothy Edward Carson, age 28, of Rosemount, pled guilty to one count of armed bank robbery and one count of possessing a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence. Carson was indicted on February 2, 2010.

In his plea agreement, Carson admitted taking \$4,580 from the bank while putting the lives of others in jeopardy by using a Beretta 40-caliber, semi-automatic handgun during the robbery. According to an affidavit filed in the case, the bank was robbed at 9:16 a.m., on January 6, by a man brandishing a handgun. The man, later identified as Carson, jumped onto the counter and pointed the gun at three tellers. He then purportedly ordered everyone to put their hands up and their heads down, after which he directed the tellers to give him money. Upon receiving the cash, he fled the bank. Security cameras from a nearby Target store recorded him getting into a parked vehicle near a vacant strip mall.

Before the robbery, at precisely 8:37 a.m., on January 6, Carson was stopped by Apple Valley police about three miles from the bank. The stop was made because Carson's vehicle did not have a front license plate. Carson identified himself as a Minneapolis police officer and, ultimately, was allowed to go on his way.

The same Apple Valley officer later responded to the bank robbery and, while enroute to the scene, reportedly observed Carson's vehicle stopped at the intersection of Johnny Cake Ridge Road and 140th Street. The affidavit states Carson was scheduled to work at 9:00 a.m. on January 6 but failed to arrive until 10:00 a.m. Later that day he was arrested by the Apple Valley Police Department and the FBI.

Carson faces a potential maximum penalty of 25 years in prison on the bank robbery charge. On the firearm charge, he faces a mandatory minimum penalty of seven years in prison and a maximum penalty of life. Judge Schiltz will determine his sentence at a future date, yet to be scheduled.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Apple Valley Police Department, the Minneapolis Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathan P. Petterson.